At Least 12 Months Prior to Your Wedding

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|  | Announce your engagement to family and friends |
|  | Select your wedding date (have backup dates in mind) |
|  | Discuss and choose the style and formality of your wedding – location, theme, number of guests and time of day |
|  | Discuss and draw up guest list (yours and your parents) |
|  | Decide if you will invite children or adults only |
|  | Determine a wedding budget and how expenses will be shared |
|  | Create a wedding file for contracts, forms, important papers, ideas, etc. |
|  | Purchase a day-timer to keep track of appointments and events |
|  | Attend Bridal Shows – this is a good place to collect a lot of information at one time |
|  | Select and hire a wedding coordinator/consultant (if applicable) |
|  | Select and reserve the location for your ceremony |
|  | Select and reserve an officiant |
|  | Select and reserve the location for your reception |
|  | Select and order your bridal gown |
|  | Determine the colors for your wedding (dresses, flowers, decorations, etc.) |
|  | Select and hire a photographer/videographer |
|  | Meet with your photographer to have engagement pictures taken |
|  | Send your engagement notice and photo to your local newspapers |
|  | Select and hire the DJ and musicians for your ceremony and reception |
|  | Select your wedding party |
|  | If your ceremony or reception are at home, prepare for home improvements |

Nine to Twelve Months Prior to Your Wedding

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|  | Select flower girl and ring bearer |
|  | Reserve wedding night bridal suite |
|  | Select wedding party’s attire, including shoes and accessories |
|  | Select attire for mothers of the bride and groom |
|  | Select and hire a caterer, if necessary |
|  | Schedule fittings and deliver dates for yourself and the wedding party |
|  | Select and book your florist |
|  | Begin compiling names and addresses for the guest list |
|  | Register for gifts at Bridal Registry |
|  | Obtain passports, visas, birth certificates and any documents needed for travel |

Six to Nine Months Prior to Your Wedding

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|  | Reserve rental items for ceremony and reception (arches, pillars, decorations, etc.) |
|  | Finalize guest list |
|  | **Select and order your wedding stationery** – invitations, thank you notes, wedding programs, etc. |
|  | Address your invitations (save time by addressing thank you envelopes at the same time) |
|  | Set a date, time, and location for your rehearsal dinner |
|  | Arrange accommodations for out-of-town guests |
|  | Begin to plan your honeymoon |
|  | Select and book all miscellaneous services |
|  | Purchase wedding shoes and accessories (begin to wear shoes) |
|  | Start shopping for each others’ wedding gifts |

Four to Six Months Prior to Your Wedding

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|  | Select baker and order cake |
|  | Order flowers |
|  | Select and order decorations and favors |
|  | Purchase honeymoon attire and luggage |
|  | Select and book limo or carriage for wedding day |
|  | Check marriage license requirements |
|  | Shop for wedding rings |
|  | Plan entertainment or activities for your out-of-town guests if they arrive days prior to your wedding date |
|  | Purchase gifts for your wedding party |
|  | Purchase wedding gifts for your parents |
|  | Arrange marriage prep courses, if necessary |
|  | Finalize honeymoon details and make necessary reservations |
|  | Go on trials for wedding day hair and makeup (bring your headpiece and wear a white shirt) |
|  | Purchase shoes and accessories for the wedding party |

Two to Four Months Prior to Your Wedding

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|  | Confirm the menu and details with the caterer |
|  | Prepare all maps and directions for the ceremony and reception |
|  | Set the date and time with the officiant for the rehearsal |
|  | Plan a bridesmaids’ luncheon and any other parties |
|  | Finalize details with florist, photographer, videographer, DJ and any other vendors |
|  | Plan the rehearsal dinner |
|  | Confirm wedding cake details with the baker |
|  | Choose your wedding music |
|  | Select ushers to escort your guests to their seats |
|  | Select a guest book attendant |

Six to Eight Weeks Prior to Your Wedding

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|  | Mail your wedding invitations |
|  | Maintain a record of RSVP’s and early gifts received |
|  | Send thank you notes upon receipt of gifts |
|  | Maintain a record of shower gifts and send thank you notes |
|  | Determine how you want to wear your hair and makeup for your wedding day |
|  | Purchase final wedding day accessories (toasting glasses, guest book, garter, ring pillow, etc.) |
|  | Select and reserve wedding attire for all gentlemen |
|  | Obtain information regarding changing your name |
|  | Arrange for name and address change |
|  | Obtain your marriage license (they have expiration dates) |
|  | Select readers for your ceremony |
|  | Mail your invitations to the rehearsal dinner |
|  | Select your something old, new, borrowed, and blue |
|  | Have final wedding gown fitting and pick up gown |
|  | Meet with your photographer for your formal wedding portrait |
|  | Send your wedding announcement to your local newspapers |

Two to Six Weeks Prior to Your Wedding

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|  | Finalize all ceremony details with officiant |
|  | Arrange final fittings for bridesmaids |
|  | Finalize guest count with caterer and reception location |
|  | Gather everything needed for rehearsal and wedding day |
|  | Review schedule of events and contact all vendors to go over last minute details |
|  | Confirm honeymoon reservations and accommodations |
|  | Pack for your honeymoon |
|  | Arrange to have your mail held at the post office, and stop your newspapers |
|  | Make a WEDDING DAY itinerary and give to your wedding party and all vendors |
|  | Decide order of receiving line and head table seating |
|  | Contact guests that haven’t replied |
|  | Pick up wedding rings |
|  | Give your photographer a photo checklist |
|  | Visit reception site for floor plan |
|  | Create a reception seating plan |
|  | Pick up honeymoon tickets |
|  | Give musicians a list of your music selections (and a do-not play list) |

The Day Before Your Wedding

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|  | Give your wedding party any accessories they will need |
|  | Give the officiant's fee to the Best Man |
|  | Designate someone (close friend, relative) to pay for any remaining services where balances are due, and entrust them with the checks to pay for the services |
|  | Arrange for someone to bring accessories to ceremony and reception (cake cutting knife, toasting glasses, guest book etc.), or drop them off at sites |
|  | Designate someone to return rented items after the wedding |
|  | Provide your wedding party and immediate family with a schedule of events for the big day |
|  | Go to ceremony site for rehearsal |
|  | Review VIP seating with ushers at ceremony site |
|  | **Go to bed EARLY** |

The BIG Day -- Your Wedding

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|  | **Eat breakfast** |
|  | Get your hair, nails, and makeup done early |
|  | Have wedding attire ready two hours early |
|  | Make sure the Best Man has the marriage license and officiant's fee |
|  | Make sure the groom has honeymoon tickets, money, etc. |
|  | Have the wedding party and immediate family arrive one hour prior to the wedding ceremony to allow time for pre-ceremony pictures |
|  | Make sure the Maid of Honor has the groom's ring and Best Man has the bride’s ring |
|  | Put your engagement ring on your right hand |
|  | Try to relax, and let others take care of anything that may come up.  Look around and soak up the views that you planned so long and hard for. Remember this is your day, and no matter what happens, try to enjoy it, and accept minor imperfections. |